

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00 STR-06 LAB-04 COME-00
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FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, ASEAN

SUBJECT: GATT EXAMINATION OF ASEAN AGREEMENT

REF: 77 GENEVA 10307

PLEASE SUBMIT FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN RESPONSE TO SECRETARI-
AT'S REQUEST REPORTED IN GATT/AIR/1416:
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1. WHAT PRODUCTS ARE PRESENTLY INCLUDED IN THE PREFERENTIAL
ARRANGEMENT? (PLEASE LIST BY CCCN (OR SITC) AND STATISTICAL
NUMBER AND COUNTRY TARIFF DESCRIPTION.) WHAT WERE TOTAL
IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF EACH ITEM FOR EACH PARTY TO THE AGREE-
MENT IN THE LAST THREE YEARS FOR WHICH STATISTICS ARE AVAIL-
ABLE? WHAT WERE THE IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF EACH ITEM FOR

EACH PARTY FROM AND TO ALL OTHER PARTIES IN THIS SAME PERIOD?

2. WHAT IS THE TYPE AND MARGIN OF PREFERENCE FOR EACH OF THE ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE ARRANGEMENT? - E.G. IF TARIFF, AMOUNT OF PREFERENCE; IF NON-TARIFF MEASURE, TYPE OF MEASURE AND DETAILS.

3. HOW DO THE PARTIES PROPOSE TO MEET THE GOAL OF THE AGREEMENT AND EXPAND TRADE AMONG THEMSELVES WITHOUT SIGNIFICANTLY DIVERTING OR RESTRICTING TRADE FROM THIRD COUNTRIES?

4. THE PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT APPEAR TO CONFLICT WITH THE PARTIES' OBLIGATIONS UNDER ARTICLES I, XIII, XVII, AND POSSIBLY OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT. ARE THE PARTIES SEEKING AN ARTICLE XXV:5 WAIVER OF THEIR GATT OBLIGATIONS?

5. ARTICLE XXIV OF THE GATT PROVIDES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FREE TRADE AREAS AND CUSTOMS UNIONS. WILL THE ASEAN AGREEMENT LEAD TO SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT? DO THE PARTIES HAVE PLANS FOR SUCH AN EVOLUTION? WHAT SORT OF PLANS?

6. HOW DOES THIS AGREEMENT RELATE TO THE 10 TARIFF CUTS AGREED TO IN 1977 BY SINGAPORE AND THAILAND AND BY SINGAPORE AND THE PHILIPPINES? WILL THESE REDUCTIONS BE EXTENDED TO OTHER PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT?
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7. WHEN THE FEASIBILITY STUDIES ARE COMPLETED ON THE FIVE ASEAN REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS, WILL GATT BE NOTIFIED AS TO ANY PREFERENCES WHICH MAY BE ACCORDED THE PRODUCTS?

8. HOW WILL SINGAPORE'S FREE PORT STATUS AFFECT ITS ABILITY TO GIVE TARIFF CONCESSIONS?

9. WHAT IS THE VIEW OF THE PARTIES ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE AGREEMENT AND THE PROTOCOL RELATING TO TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES? WILL THE PARTIES SEEK TO EXPAND THE CONCESSIONS GRANTED UNDER THE ASEAN AGREEMENT TO ALL SIGNATORIES OF THE PROTOCOL?

10. WHAT PLANS ARE BEING DEVELOPED FOR THE RELAXATION OF QUANTITATIVE AND OTHER NON-TARIFF RESTRICTIONS AS MENTIONED IN ARTICLES 3, 5, 6 AND 7 OF THE AGREEMENT?

11. HAVE ANY SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENTS RELATING TO PREFERENTIAL TRADING ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRODUCTS OF ASEAN INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS BEEN ESTABLISHED AS MENTIONED IN ARTICLE 10? ARE SUCH ARRANGEMENTS INTENDED TO BE TEMPORARY, UNTIL

THE INDUSTRY COULD COMPETE WITH NON-ASEAN PRODUCERS, OR
WOULD THEY BE PERMANENT?

12. WILL THE GATT AS A MATTER OF COURSE BE PROVIDED WITH
ADDITIONAL PRODUCT INFORMATION, INCLUDING THE DETAILS RE-
QUESTED IN PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 2 ABOVE, AS PREFERENTIAL TREAT-
MENT IS EXTENDED TO ADDITIONAL PRODUCTS.

13. WILL CONCESSIONS NEGOTIATED BILATERALLY BE AUTOMATIC-
ALLY EXTENDED TO ALL OTHER PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT?

IF NOT, WILL GATT BE NOTIFIED OF THE COUNTRIES RECEIVING
THE CONCESSIONS?

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14. ARTICLE 7 STATES THAT A 2 1/2 PREFERENCE, NOT TO
EXCEED US \$40,000 PER TENDER, WILL BE ACCORDED ASEAN
MEMBERS IN TENDERS FOR GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT. ARE THERE
PREFERENCES IN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT FOR DOMESTIC CONCERNS
IN EACH OF THE ASEAN COUNTRIES? IF SO, WHAT ARE THESE
DOMESTIC PREFERENCES AND HOW WILL THEY RELATE TO THE ASEAN
PREFERENCES?

15. THAILAND AND TH- PHILIPPINES ARE ALSO SIGNATORIES TO
THE BANGKOK AGREEMENT, WHICH APPEARS SIMILAR TO THE ASEAN
AGREEMENT IN GOALS AND TRADE POLICY PROVISIONS. HOW DO
THESE COUNTRIES VIEW THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THEIR OBLI-
GATIONS UNDER THE TWO AGREEMENTS? CHRISTOPHER

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